20 YEARS! 1987-2007

C!N

1060

Wolverine

Can Wolverine Be X-Terminated?

Is it possible for Wolverine to die?

That's a question that has intrigued X-Men fans ever since 1987, when *Chris Claremont & Alan Davis* had Logan regenerate from a drop of his own blood in ***Uncanny X-Men Annual #11.***

So if a single drop of blood is all it takes, that brings up the question "Can Wolverine die?" If he faces an injury so catastrophic that nothing is left, save an adamantium skeleton or finger, what happens?

Writer *Marc Guggenheim* has some theories about that. Guggenheim is the writer who, a few years ago, had Wolverine burned to a crisp by the explosive villain Nitro—and he was able to recover from that toasting. But he and artist *Howard Chaykin* are tackling the question hard and heavy in "The Death of Logan," a five-parter that began in ***Wolverine #57.***

"This arc springs out of ***Wolverine #48,*** which was an epilogue to my 'Vendetta' story," Guggenheim said. "And that was born out of me wondering what happens when Wolverine suffers one of these life-altering injuries. I understand how his body heals, but even if you have a healing factor which can regenerate your brain, how does it regenerate your memories? Your personality? Your soul?"

For readers who missed ***Wolverine #48,*** Guggenheim offered a summary of what was revealed in that unusual issue. As readers discovered, when Wolverine dies, "he goes to the same place that we all go – the afterlife. Well, his *personal version* of the afterlife at least. What makes his different is that, for some reason, he seems to get a chance at returning to earth and the living. In the afterlife, he faces this mysterious character, Lazear, who fights him. If Wolverine manages to win the fight, his soul returns to earth where he finds that his body is conveniently waiting for him, because of his healing factor.

"That of course, raises more questions – who's Lazear, and why does Wolverine get this special dispensation that the rest of us don't get? It's that mystery that fuels a good chunk of this second arc of mine."

What was the root of the story? "I remember that ***X-Men Annual*** too, where Wolverine was down to a single drop of blood, and that's where this question started to form in my head. I've always taken it for granted that Wolverine can heal himself from pretty severe injuries, and was really surprised in issue #43, the second issue of my first arc, that there was an outcry from some fans saying that Wolverine could never have recovered/regenerated from such a severe injury. I've realized that it's something of a generational thing that depends upon which version of Wolverine you grew up reading. For some of us, that was a return to what we knew, and for others, who were familiar with Wolverine taking a while to heal, that was a pretty huge leap that I was making.

"Admittedly, Wolverine's healing factor *has* been treated somewhat inconsistently over the years."

Is there any concern that a story that blends superheroics with metaphysics might take away from some of the mystery and intrigue of the character? "I think there's always a risk whenever you try to answer a question—maybe no one is interested in the answer, because no one was asking the question in the first place. So there is a little bit of trepidation on my part.

"I personally feel that Wolverine as 'mystery man' had been sort of played out. As a reader, I welcomed ***Origin,*** and I welcomed all of the revelations that have come since, and I even welcomed the restoration of Wolverine's memories in ***House of M,*** just because I felt that it all had been played out. It was similar to when, as a reader, Superman got married. Okay – fine, the whole love triangle with Lois was…tired. As a reader, I was ready for and okay with a status quo change.

"I think we all struggle, as a collective consciousness, with status quo in comic books. What *is* the status quo? Should it ever change? Should a character who's dead come back to life? Should a character who's married get divorced? Should a character who's single get married? It's this constant struggle for fans and writers, and one of those things that's really, really tricky—and in many cases, you don't know how it's going to work out until you try it.

"So yeah... it's tricky. I'm answering a question that I've been curious about. Whether or not the story sticks will depend upon who picks up the mantle after me, and who revisits it. Especially when you look at Wolverine – he's been in a lot of different series, been approached by a lot of different creators, and there are all sorts of different aspects of his history that writers have put out there that just haven't gotten any traction. So, in the end, people will respond to this, and it will be something that will be revisited, or it will be a non-starter and fade into distant memory."

If Wolverine truly has the ability to return Lazarus-like from the dead, how does that change the character, and what does that ability do to him? "I tried to suggest and establish in issue #48 that, when his body takes a pounding, his body recovers, but his spirit really suffers. I was trying to create an emotional cost to the character, so that you can treat him like one of those toys that you can beat the crap out of, but it always retains its shape.

"From a character standpoint, this constant beating on him *does* take a toll. Every time he suffers one of these serious injuries, he has to literally fight his way out of purgatory. Over time, that is more and more and more difficult and trying to his very soul.

"The reason I did that was because, as a writer, I wanted there to be consequences for this character. Without consequences, there's no jeopardy, and without jeopardy, there's no drama. I didn't have the clout to depower him, to remove the healing factor or lessen the effectiveness of the healing factor, but I can suggest that, whenever he gets the crap beaten out of him, it really takes its toll on his soul.

"By the end of this arc, I hope to at least suggest some parity. Not a depowering, so much as putting the brakes on how much lickin' he can take and still keep on tickin'," Guggenheim said.

The arc not only takes Wolverine into very different territory, it also offers a very different visual take on Wolverine, courtesy of veteran illustrator *Howard Chaykin,* with whom Guggenheim worked on Marvel's ***Blade*** series. How does Guggenheim feel about working with the acclaimed illustrator once again? "To be honest, I *love* working with Howard—but at the same time, it fills me with a sense of dread, because Howard works so fast. I'm probably the only comic book writer who complains about how *professional* his artist is, but with Howard, I always feel like I'm Indiana Jones, and he's the boulder – and I'm always running for my life," Guggenheim joked.

"When I found out Howard and I would be back together on Wolverine, I was thrilled. I'm still a fanboy at heart, and still read comics every week, and I can still kind of get a goosebump or two that I've got a living legend drawing a story that I've written. That's pretty amazing. He's got a unique voice as an artist, and that just makes it so exciting to be working with him. That and that he's also the fastest gun in the West when it comes to pages, and I'm just moving as quickly as I can to keep ahead of him."

Don't expect a lengthy tenure from Guggenheim and Chaykin, however. "I'm in and out. Five issues and I'm out. Hopefully, it goes well enough that the door will remain open for me to come back here and there. I've got plans and stories I still want to tell."

Wolverine #s 57 & #58, the first two parts of "The Death of Logan," should be in comic shops now. The remaining three installments are slated to appear in November, December, and January.

by Matt Brady
(with Cliff Biggers)

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Check Out Gene Simmons' Zipper!

Okay, it sounds a little bit suggestive—but the folks at IDW assure us that readers who *do* take a look at ***Gene Simmons' Zipper*** will be glad they did!

The new SF series created by the head honcho of KISS, written by *Tom Waltz* and illustrated by *Casey Maloney* (the team responsible for IDW's ***Children of the Grave***), focuses on Xeng Ral, a soldier whose sole purpose is to serve in defense of Etheria, his home planet. Xeng Ral is not an elite soldier, by any means—rather, he is simply one amongst many. But something happens to Xeng Ral while performing his duty, as has happened to others before him: he begins to question his purpose and contemplate his autonomy. He begins to explore his own individuality—something totally unacceptable in Etheria's

collective society. Slated to be "reconditioned," Xeng Ral escapes by donning a protective zippered dimension suit and entering a wormhole that eventually lands him on Planet Earth.

"The sense of ***Zipper*** came to me from *Robert A. Heinlein's* ***Stranger In A Strange Land***," Simmons explained. "A human being, who was born on Mars and was raised by Martians, comes to Earth. The (Silver) Surfer is an alien, who comes to Earth. I was born in another country and came to America. All of us share a sense of being from the Outside. We are all Outsiders..

"Zipper is not from here. He is from the Nether Ether... a place with different values... What I mean is, for head hunters in the Amazon, killing and eating a human being is perfectly fine. But here, if you're Jeffrey Dahmer, you are a monster and depraved. It's all a point of view..."

Gene Simmons' Zipper #1 is slated for November release from IDW.

CSNsider

•*Gene Ha* has indicated that it's unlikely that his and *Grant Morrison's* ***Authority*** series will continue at WildStorm. I don't think The ***Authority #3*** by *Grant Morrison & Gene Ha* is ever coming out," Ha said in a group e-mailing. "Grant is busy redesigning the DC Universe and I've moved onto new projects... There is no #3 script, there may never *be* a #3 script.

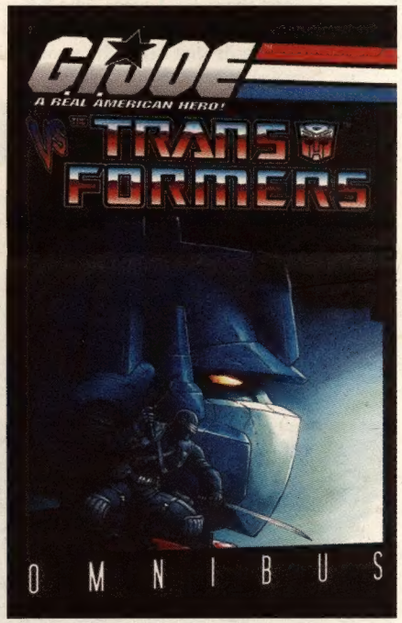
"I am currently working on my second poster for the Illinois Library Association. After that, I'll start on the *Zander Cannon* scripts and layouts for a new ***Top 10*** series. The story is set in the same time period as the ***Smax*** miniseries. This means that Smax and Toybox won't show up during my four issue run. I actually did a lot of sketching and research coming up with an updated costume for Toybox. Obviously, I won't get to use those concepts. I'm a little disappointed about that—but the scripts are good enough to make up for that..."

•Naruto fans should check out this limited edition collectible: the ***Naruto Shadow Box Set***, slated for mid-November release, collects all twenty-seven volumes of ***Naruto*** in a handsomely-designed wooden box (and you'll get the last three books a month before they go into general release!), along with such premium items as a mini-manga of the proto-chapter, the first-ever ***Naruto*** story; an exclusive, two-sided color poster; collectible graphic novel cover stickers; and an exclusive Naruto TCG card. There'll only be five thousand of these collectibles, so act quickly or you know you'll regret it!

•Zenescope Press has sold out of all printings of ***Grimm's Fairy Tales: Return to Wonderland #s 0, 1, & 2.*** Fret not, though: the publisher is going back to press with new addition of all three issues, which should be in stores in late November.

•Bad news, ***Nexus*** fans: *Steve Rude* has announced that ***Nexus #100*** is being resolicited for January 2008 release. The resolicit will allow Rude Dude Productions to release the next three parts of the series on a monthly schedule. As for the delay—well, it's taking *Steve Rude* a little bit longer than he initially anticipated to finish his first fully-painted comic story, an eleven-page Sundra Peale set early in her career. The issue will also include a bonus twelve-page feature, "The History of Nexus" by *Bill Baker*.

To stop all of us *Steve Rude* fans (and who isn't?) from going crazy because of the delays, Rude Dude is offering a 100-page ***How to Draw Nexus: Tips & Techniques*** in December. Along with featuring model sheets of the entire Nexus cast, the book offers Rude's guide to figure construction, a section on drawing the human (and non-human) head, and handy guides to illustrating hardware like space ships and futuristic interiors. For the first time ever, Rude shares the model sheet drawings from the Nexus animated promo, and there's also a special section featuring the Nexus Fundraiser drawings from 2002.



•December brings the ***GI Joe Vs. Transformers Omnibus***, a massive 464-page hardcover from Devil's Due collecting all four miniseries in a single volume.

•*Brian Wood & Becky Cloonan* have announced the full reversion of publishing and other media rights for their critically-acclaimed comics series ***Demo***, originally published several years ago by AiT/PlanetLar. "***Demo*** is one of the most important things I've done," series writer Brian Wood said, "and it's been my continuing mission for it to reach as many people as possible. Were currently exploring options and offers from other publishers with that goal in mind." With both Wood and Cloonan currently working with Vertigo, it's quite likely that the book will end up there, along with a reported sequel series.

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•Gemstone expands its EC Archives line in December with ***EC Archives: Crime SuspenStories Volume One,*** a beautifully-recolored hardcover collecting the first six issues of the sophisticated suspense series featuring work by *Al Feldstein, Johnny Craig, Wally Wood, Graham Ingels, Jack Davis,* and others; acclaimed mystery writer *Max Allan Collins* supplies the introduction.

•Seven Seas Entertainment unveils a new ***Speed Racer*** original manga series by *Dwayne A. Smith & Elmer Damaso* in December. The first 192-page volume includes all the Speed Racer staples: races, a mad scientist, a killer robot, and the potential destruction of the Mach 5.

•Viper collects *Josh Howard's* entire ***Dead@17*** trilogy in ***Dead@17: The Compendium Edition.*** The trade paperback includes the entire story, revised and expanded with new and extended scenes, enhanced artwork, pinups, and more, all in one 6"x9" 336-page book.

•*Max Allan Collins'* ***Ms. Tree*** is coming back—not as a comic book, but as an original novel. The book *does* feature an original cover by ***Ms. Tree*** co-creator *Terry Beatty*—and we can hope that the book might pave the way for a new comic book series somewhere down the line!

•Want to know all about Marvel's graphic novels? Then *Robert G. Weiner's* ***Marvel Graphic Novels & Related Publications 1965-2005*** is the hardcover for you! This 215-page volume offers a detailed description of each comic, along with a bibliographic citation listing the publication's title, writers/artists, publisher, ISBN (if available), and a plot synopsis. One appendix provides a comprehensive alphabetical index of Marvel and Marvel-related publications to 2005, while two other appendices provide selected lists of Marvel-related game books and unpublished Marvel titles.

•More changes are in store for the contents of a quartet of Superman books. First off, ***Superman #668*** will now feature the *Kurt Busiek-Rick Leonardi-Dan Green* kickoff chapter of "The Third Kryptonian" initially slated for #669. ***Superman #669*** will now feature the second chapter of the book, originally solicited to appear in ***Superman #670***. And the conclusion to "The Third Kryptonian," originally slated to appear in ***Superman Annual #13,*** will now appear in the extra-length ***Superman #670.*** As for ***Superman Annual #13...*** well, it'll now feature the finale to "Camelot Falls" by *Kurt Busiek, Carlos Pacheco, & Jesus Merino,* along with a *Kurt Busiek-Renato Guedes* backup story in which the Superman family — including The Man of Steel, Lois Lane, Chris Kent, Jonathan and Martha Kent and others, are reunited for what may be the last time.

•***Blue Beetle*** is the latest DC title to be affected by "content musical chairs." The story originally slated to appear in ***Blue Beetle #21*** has been pushed back to ***BB #22,*** with a new story by *Justin Penniston & Andy Kuhn* going into #21 instead. In this story, Jaime Reyes gets a shot at punishing the man who crippled his father — only to discover he's in line behind the Spectre, making for one of the young hero's hardest choices yet. The scheduled *John Rogers-Rafael Albuquerque* story in which Jaime gets an extra boost from the Beetle legacy via Ted Kord's gadgets and Dan Garrett's niece moves to #22. Look for #21 in November and #22 in December.

•***Publishers Weekly*** has confirmed that *Scott McCloud's* brilliant and long-out-of-print ***Zot!*** is coming back to comic shop shelves in a new 576-page black and white HarperCollins trade paperback edition next July. HarperCollins is supplementing the reprinted material with commentary by McCloud and nine stories that have never been reprinted until now; there will also be several pages of previously-unseen new material.

•Okay, *this* wins the award for the most surprising zombie variant cover ever: ***Anita Blake Vampire Hunter: First Death #2*** will feature a zombie variant cover by *Ron Lim.* Look for it in late October.

•And speaking of *Ron Lim*—the veteran comics artist has been tapped by Marvel to take over as artist of ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter—Guilty Pleasures*** beginning with the eighth issue. *Laurell K. Hamilton* was involved in selecting the new series artist, and was quite impressed with Lim's take on the characters.

•Marvel's ***Ultimate Origins*** has been pushed back to June 2008; the five-issue limited series was rescheduled to make room for some major events in the Ultimate Universe as a part of the ***Ultimatum*** series. "Editorially, it fits in better with what we have planned post-***Ultimates 3, Ultimate Iron Man,*** and ***Ultimate Human*** (a limited series debuting in January)," Marvel's marketing maestro *David Gabriel* told ***CSN,*** stressing that this is entirely a sales and marketing decision and is *not* caused by any creative delays (after all, it's written by *Brian Bendis,* who is almost always far ahead of deadline on most of his projects!).

•***Daredevil #100*** has sold out of all covers at Marvel; no current plans for a second printing, but Marvel *is* monitoring reorder demand.

•*Tony Lee,* best known for his work as writer of ***Starship Troopers,*** will revamp ***Warrior Nun Areala*** for Antarctic Press in 2008.

•*John Nee* has been named Senior Vice President of Business Development, DC Comics, where he will report directly to DC Comics President & Publisher *Paul Levitz.* "John has a wide-ranging and entrepreneurial approach to our business," Levitz said, "and has been able to expand DC's activities through relationships he's built across the world and inside our affiliated companies. It's my pleasure to recognize his contributions with this promotion, and to count on his continued effect on DC's growth."

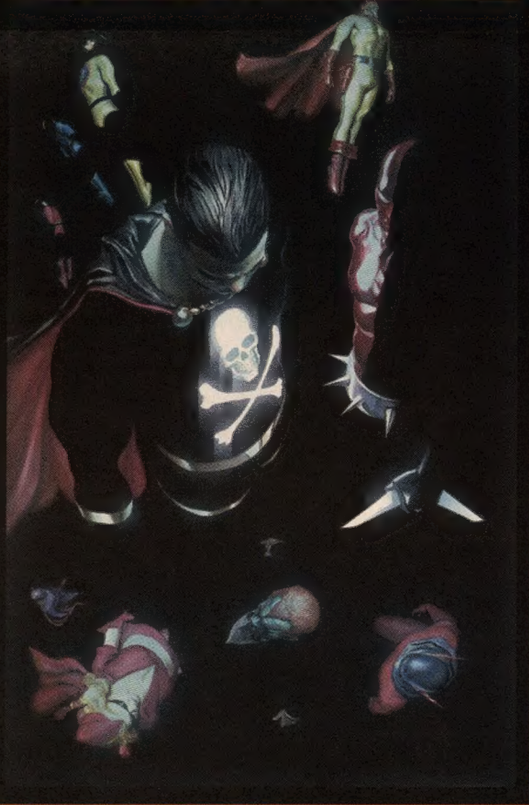
•*Tom Fassbender* has joined Boom Studios as Vice President of Publishing. "Tom's a great guy, with gut-level instincts that are as good as any I've seen," editor *Mark Waid* said. "He's got the nuts and bolts of this industry down. I love working with him. We make a great team."

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in December

Brian K. Vaughan's Faith-based story arc comes a riveting conclusion in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #9*** as Slayers battle to the death!

Elise Cameron, the heroine of Dark Horse's superhero series ***Ghost,*** is the eleventh offering in the syroco-styled ***Classic Comic Book Characters*** series. ***The Ghost Statue*** is limited to five hundred hand-numbered copies.

The latest addition to the Dark Horse horror line is ***Cut,*** an original graphic novel from *Mike Richardson, Todd Herman, & Al Milgrom.* Twenty-something Meagan Walters regains consciousness and finds herself locked in an empty room of an old house. She's bleeding from the back of her head, and



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1-50 Ross Negative Incentive Cover
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has no memory of where the wound came from—she'd been at a club with some friends . . . left angrily . . . was she abducted? When Meagan peers through the door's keyhole, she starts to suspect that her captor isn't quite human . . .

New artist *Tomas Giorello* joins writer *Timothy Truman* beginning with ***Conan #47***'s adaptation of the *Robert E. Howard* fragmentary piece "The Hand of Nergal."

Dark Horse describes *Rick Remender, Mat Broome, & Sean Parsons'* ***The End League*** as "a thematic merging of ***The Lord of the Rings*** and ***Watchmen***." So *how* does that work, exactly? Well, ***The End League*** follows a cast of the last remaining supermen and women as they embark on a desperate and perilous journey through a world dominated by evil, in hopes of locating the one remaining artifact that can save humanity—the Hammer of Thor... (no, not *that* Thor...)

One of Frank Frazetta's most famous Warren Magazine cover painting, best known as ***Egyptian Queen,*** is the subject of the latest ReelArt Studios sculpture. *Gabriel Marquez* does the honors, bringing Frazetta's painting into the third dimension in this 2000-copy limited production run.

Tom Piccirilli is the author of the original novel ***Hellboy: Emerald Hell.*** In this tale, Hellboy comes to the crossroads in Enigma, Georgia, a small town plagued by strange occurrences. Sent to keep an eye on Sarah Nail, a young girl hiding from the curse of her family, Hellboy becomes entangled in the blood debt of evil mystical preacher, Brother Jester. Stuck between human malice and the mysteries of the occult, Hellboy comes up against an intrigue of ghosts, demon trees, talking bullfrogs, and a race of lost mutant children.

Roman Dirge joins with artist *Steven Daily* for the offbeat holiday tale ***It Ate Billy on Christmas.*** It would have been

a Christmas like any other for little Lumie and her horrible, terrible, obnoxious, awful bully of a brother Billy. But then a funny little monster appeared and ate Billy right up! Lumie knows it's not really a good thing to let a monster eat your brother, but she can't help but notice that things are, in fact, much nicer now that he's gone...

He is the law... and he is the subject of Dark Horse's new ***Judge Dredd: Dredd Vs. Death Statue,*** limited to a thousand numbered copies. This sculpture, produced in conjunction with First 4Figures, is based on an illustration by *Greg Staples.*

Neil Gaiman Presents Volume One: The Twilight of the Gods and Other Tales features twenty-eight short stories by *Richard Garnett* that focus on mythological figures and legends personally selected by Gaiman, who also supplies the introduction to the 288-page book.

Robert E. Howard's Conan: The Frost Giant's Daughter features something old and something older in a new package. This oneshot features *Kurt Busiek & Cary Nord's* adaptation from ***Conan #2,*** presented with the famous *Frank Frazetta* cover image for the 1969 Lancer paperback ***Conan of Cimmeria.***

The Savage Sword Collection Bust #2: Kull features a sculpt by *Tony Cipriano* based on the art of *Andy Brase,* who'll be doing the covers for Dark Horse's upcoming comics version of Kull.

Dark Horse collected editions (solicited early for January and February release) include:

- ***Blade of the Immortal Volume Eighteen: The Sparrow Net,*** collecting the latest arc of *Hiroaki Samura's* samurai epic;
- ***City of Others,*** collecting the limited series by *Steve Niles & Bernie Wrightson;*
- ***Fear Agent: The Last Goodbye,*** collecting *Rick Remender & Tony Moore's* saga of the origin of the last Fear Agent;
- ***Grendel: Devil Quest,*** a hardcover reissue of the sixty-four-page *Matt Wagner* seven-chapter saga that's been out of print for more than a decade;
- ***Indiana Jones Omnibus Volume One,*** collecting the long-out-of-print stories ***Indiana Jones & the Fate of Atlantis,***

Thunder in the Orient, and ***Indiana Jones and the Arms of Gold;***

- ***Nexus Archives Volume Seven,*** collecting 208 more pages of *Mike Baron & Steve Rude's* ***Nexus*** saga;
- ***Predator Omnibus Volume Two,*** featuring 360 pages of long-unavailable Predator adventures;
- ***The Savage Sword of Conan Volume Two,*** featuring another 544 pages of classic black-and-white Conan material by *Roy Thomas, Barry Windsor-Smith, John Buscema,* and others;
- ***Star Wars: 30th Anniversary Volume Twelve—Legacy,*** a handsome hardcover edition of the tale by *John Ostrander, Jan Duursema, & Dan Parsons;*
- ***Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope Photo Comic,*** a fumetti version of the first *real* ***Star Wars*** film;
- ***Star Wars: Legacy #0,*** an expanded and revised edition of the long-out-of-print zero issue;
- ***Star Wars: Legacy Volume Two—Shards,*** collecting the second ***Legacy*** story arc; and
- ***Star Wars: Rebellion Volume Two—The Ahakista Gambit,*** collecting #s 6-12.

Dark Horse Declares Vector-y!

Dark Horse's year-long ***Star Wars*** event that was described by some as "a ***Star Wars*** version of ***Civil War***" now has a name! ***Star Wars: Vector,*** which kicks off in January 2008, is the most complex interrelated ***Star Wars*** project ever published by Dark Horse—a comic book saga that the publisher describes as "a year-long event with repercussions for every era and every hero in the ***Star Wars*** galaxy.

Beginning with the January issue of

Knights of the Old Republic, Star Wars: Vector will run through that title as well as ***Legacy, Rebellion,*** and ***Dark Times.***

When a terrible vision reaching more than 4,000 years into the future alerts the secret Jedi Covenant to the importance of Taris, they activate an operative already on this planet overrun by Mandalorians. There, in the deadly Undercity, a monstrous, ancient threat is unleashed that plunges Zayne Carrick, the Padawan accused of killing his fellow students, into an adventure which will eventually span four thousand years and involve Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker, and the principles of the ***Legacy*** series!

"After our relaunch in 2006 and the thirtieth anniversary this year, we were looking for something special to kick-off 2008," editor *Randy Stradley* said. "At first, a line-wide ***Star Wars*** crossover seemed like it might be beyond our reach, but after nearly a year's worth of back-and-forth discussions among our writers and artists, we came up with something really solid. Not only is it a big story that can span all of the eras we're dealing with, but the events which take place within each era will be important to that era."

With a storyline that runs through all the explored periods of ***Star Wars*** history, Dark Horse describes ***Vector*** as "the perfect introduction to the entire ***Star Wars*** line! For any serious ***Star Wars*** fan, ***Vector*** is *the* must-read event of *2008, with major happenings* throughout the most important moments of the galaxy's history."

CSNquiry

•"Why has Heroic Publishing shrunk their comic books? The smaller size is tough to store and gets lost in my collection." —*Jack Dunnahee*

We directed your question to Heroic publisher *Dennis Mallonee,* who explained that "the lower printing costs for this smaller size put Heroic in the profit column, so it's likely that we'll continue to print in this size for the foreseeable future... I suspect that, as more publishers discover the savings that go along with this size, you'll see more publishers going to the same format."

•"Will Dark Horse be doing their ***Creepy*** and ***Eerie*** reprints in magazine format, or will they do them in trade paperbacks?"--*Ellis Penney*

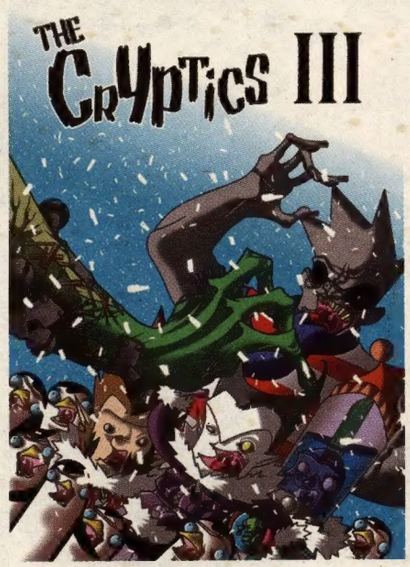
It looks like they'll forego the magazine format in favor of larger collected editions—and it looks likely that "larger" may indicate both the pagecount and the physical size of the books. While Dark Horse is reducing the size of the ***Savage Sword of Conan*** magazine reprints to comic-book-trim-size for their collected editions, their strongly favoring a larger magazine-page-size for the Warren reprint volumes to show off the stunning art to its best advantage.

Coming Comics—Image in December

Dark Sector #0 is a comic by *David Wohl & Bill Sienkiewicz* that ties in to the upcoming action-thriller videogame. Enter the world of Hayden Tenno, a black ops agent sent on a dangerous assassination mission into Lasria, an Eastern European city that hides a deadly Cold War secret.

At long last, Jackie Estacado returns to action in ***The Darkness #1,*** the kickoff issue of a new ongoing series by *Phil Hester & Michael Broussard.* Irrevocably changed by the events of ***First Born,*** Jackie Estacado has relocated to Central America. But every paradise has dark secrets under the surface. And what does the mysterious Professor Kirchner stand to gain by allying himself with Jackie?

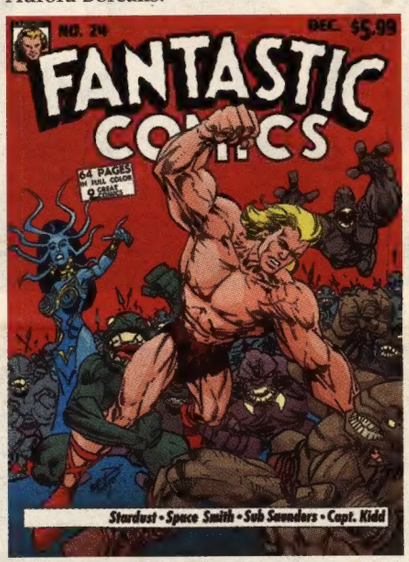
Steve Niles & Ben Roman present a new adventure of Drac, Sea Boy, Wolfy, and Hyde in ***The Cryptics III;*** in this issue, they rampage through the arctic in search of an old friend!



Gerry Dugan & Phil Noto offer a contemporary re-imagining of ***The Odyssey*** in the six-part series ***Infinite Horizon.*** In the not-too-distant future a small group of abandoned soldiers are lead home by one man: The Captain. To get back he will have to cross half the globe and endure deadly encounters with many enemies including the Cyclops, and the Sirens...but first he will have to survive the final hours of the war!

Atom Eve graduates from the pages of ***Invincible*** to her own miniseries. *Benito Cereno & Nate Bellegarde* do the honors for ***Invincible Presents: Atom Eve.*** Find out how she got her powers, and what shaped her into the woman she is today.

Chuck Dixon comes on board as writer for the ***Kiss 4K KissMas Special,*** featuring art by *Tone Rodriguez.* When an ancient evil threatens the Earth, the Kiss 4K team must use their powers (both supernatural and musical) to replace the Aurora Borealis.



Erik Larsen joins forces with a number of talented friends, including *Joe Casey, Tom Scioli, Howard Chaykin, Tom Yeates, Fred Hembeck, Ashley Wood, Andy Kuhn, B. Clay Moore, Bill Sienkiewicz, Mike Allred, & Andy Kuhn* for ***The Next Issue Project #1: Fantastic Comics #24.*** This is an ongoing series that continues a classic discontinued title for a modern audience! All stories are complete and self-contained! All books are Golden Age sized, but these aren't simply an homage to Golden Age comics: They're updated classics for a new generation by modern masters!

Scott Reed & Shane White take readers to Pittsburgh in 2135 in ***The Overman #1.*** the series follows hired killer Nathan Fisher as he discovers the first clue of a vast, cryptic plot that will destroy the human race.

In a world that has survived every catastrophe imaginable, a new threat comes from beyond the stars in ***A Red Mass for Mars,*** a four-part limited series by *Jonathan Hickman & Ryan Bodenheim.*

Image collected editions include:

•***Casanova Volume One: Luxuria,*** a softcover version of the #s 1-7 collected edition;

•***Hawaiian Dick Volume One: Byrd of Paradise,*** a new printing of the *B. Clay Moore-Steven Griffin* miniseries;

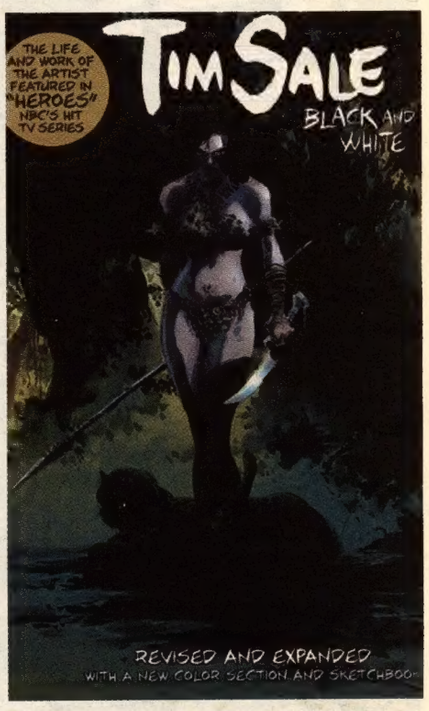
•***Invincible Volume Nine: Out of This World,*** collecting ***Invincible #s 42-47;***

•***Madman Volume Three,*** collecting ***Madman Comics #s 12-20*** and ***Madman King-Size Super Groovy Special;***

•***NYC Mech Volume Two: Beta Love,*** collecting ***#s 1-6*** of the robot-noir series;

•***The Ride Volume Two,*** collecting ***Gun Candy*** and ***Die Valkyrie,*** along with bonus material; and

•***Tim Sale: Black and White,*** a revised and expanded version of the hardcover originally published by Active Images.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